Was Mahomet bewitched?

Bewitchment is something that existed at all times. People have the tendency to believe in it and they know that it is very harmful. For some, it is the opposite of religion. Why do people practice bewitchment? There are many reasons behind it. Jealousy is its main cause. But Mahomet had known bewitchment for another reason. What I ask is the following question: Could bewitchment affect Mahomet despite his being the messenger of God, His most beloved one, and the seal of prophets?

With regard to bewitchment made to Mahomet, we have two types of people:

1. It was impossible to bewitch Mahomet because he was the chosen messenger of God and the last of all the prophets. Because of His love for him, He would not allow him to be bewitched. They say that all the *hadiths* narrated to this effect is subject to verification.
2. It was possible to bewitch Mahomet and this indicated that, despite being the apostle of God, bewitchment affected him and caused harm to him. Thus Mahomet was a model and an example for us to see.

Certain scholars say that Mahomet could have been affected by the bewitchment and that was his psychological and mental sides that were affected because he thought that he was having sexual relations with his wives while in fact he was not having such relations.

The first category provides evidence from the Quran and the *hadiths* also:

وَاللَّهُ يَعْصِمُكَ مِنَ النَّاسِ ۗ

5/67 - ***And God will protect you from the people.***

عَنْ عَائِشَةَ قَالَتْ كَانَ النَّبِيُّ يُحْرَسُ حَتَّى نَزَلَتْ هَذِهِ الآيَةُ وَاللَّهُ يَعْصِمُكَ مِنَ النَّاسِ فَأَخْرَجَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ رَأْسَهُ مِنَ الْقُبَّةِ فَقَالَ لَهُمْ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ انْصَرِفُوا فَقَدْ عَصَمَنِي اللَّهُ.

1 – Narrated *Aishah*: The prophet was being guarded until this verse was revealed: ***God will protect you from men!*** So the messenger of God stuck his head out from the room and said: **O you people! Go away, for God shall protect me** (***Jami' at-Tirmidhi: 47/3329; mustadrak al-Hakim: 25/3148; as-Sunan al-kubra: 16/16291***)

According to you, when the prophet got protection from God against men, this include against bewitchment. This means that bewitchment could have never affected him in any way. Was this true in the life of Mahomet?

If we consider the *hadiths*, it will be very easy to understand that Mahomet was really affected by this bewitchment being given that he thought of having sexual relations with his wives when, in reality, he was not having any relation. The bewitchment affected him, his psychological and mental aspects, as the scholars pretended. This effect is reported in *hadiths*!

Bewitchment, according to people in general, is a work of the devil (Satan). The sorcerers invoked the devil (Satan) in order to harm someone in his daily life. In the Quran, it is Satan who is responsible for working as the main sorcerer. Let us see this verse:

وَلَٰكِنَّ الشَّيَاطِينَ كَفَرُوا يُعَلِّمُونَ النَّاسَ السِّحْرَ

2/101 - ***But the devils disbelieved, teaching people sorcery (bewitchment).***

This is the starting point of all sorcerers. Satan is supposed to teach them (according to the Quran) how to do it and he helps them in it against something in return.

هَلْ أُنَبِّئُكُمْ عَلَىٰ مَن تَنَزَّلُ الشَّيَاطِينُ * تَنَزَّلُ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ أَفَّاكٍ أَثِيمٍ * يُلْقُونَ السَّمْعَ وَأَكْثَرُهُمْ كَاذِبُونَ

26/221-223 - ***Shall I inform you upon whom the devils descend? They descend upon every sinful liar. They pass on what is heard, and most of them are liars.***

إِنَّ عِبَادِي لَيْسَ لَكَ عَلَيْهِمْ سُلْطَانٌ إِلَّا مَنِ اتَّبَعَكَ مِنَ الْغَاوِينَ

15/42; 17/65 - ***Indeed, my servants - no authority will you have over them, except those who follow you of the deviators.***

إِنَّهُ لَيْسَ لَهُ سُلْطَانٌ عَلَى الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ يَتَوَكَّلُونَ

16/99 - ***Indeed, there is for him no authority over those who have believed and rely upon their Lord.***

إِنَّمَا سُلْطَانُهُ عَلَى الَّذِينَ يَتَوَلَّوْنَهُ وَالَّذِينَ هُم بِهِ مُشْرِكُونَ

16/100 - ***His authority is only over those who take him as an ally and those who through him associate others with God.***

وَمَا كَانَ لَهُ عَلَيْهِم مِّن سُلْطَانٍ إِلَّا لِنَعْلَمَ مَن يُؤْمِنُ بِالْآخِرَةِ مِمَّنْ هُوَ مِنْهَا فِي شَكٍّ ۗ

34/21 - ***And he (tne devil) had over them no authority except that we might make evident who believes in the Hereafter from who is thereof in doubt.***

So, according to these verses above, it is clear that Satan will not be able to approach believers. He just descends on those who are misguided, the slanderers, and the sinners. These people – especially those who love extremely Mahomet – say that a prophet cannot be affected by bewitchment. Mahomet was indeed a believer – the first believer in Islam if we can say this – and he was supposed be the greatest believer known to God and to the world. Is it so really?

Hadiths narrate that a Jew (male) bewitched Mahomet and this affected him largely:

عَنْ زَيْدِ بْنِ أَرْقَمَ قَالَ سَحَرَ النَّبِيَّ رَجُلٌ مِنَ الْيَهُودِ ...

2 – *Zayd ibn Arqam* narrated that a man among the Jews bewitched the prophet (***Sunan an-Nasai: 5/4085; Sunan Ibn Majah: 4/3545; Sahih Ibn Hibban: 62/6583; as-Sunan al-kubra by an-Nasai: 15/3435; Muswannaf ibn Abi Shaybah: 13/22910***).

We have other *hadiths* that let us understand that witchcraft (sorcery) cannot affect the prophet because he was protected by God:

أَخْبَرَنَا عَامِرُ بْنُ سَعْدٍ عَنْ أَبِيهِ قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ مَنْ تَصَبَّحَ كُلَّ يَوْمٍ سَبْعَ تَمَرَاتٍ عَجْوَةً لَمْ يَضُرُّهُ فِي ذَلِكَ الْيَوْمِ سُمٌّ وَلاَ سِحْرٌ.

3 – *'Amir ibn Sa'd* narrated from his father that the messenger of God said, **whoever eats seven '*ajwa* dates every morning, poison or bewitchment cannot do anything to him in the course of that day** (***Sahih al-Bukhari: 7/356, 663, 664, 671; Sahih Muslim: 23/5081; Sunan Abu Dawood: 28/3867; Muswannaf Ibn Abu Shaybah: 13/22870; Sunan an-Nasai al-Kubra: 47/6472; as-Sunan al-kubra: 17/18008***).

He said that eating seven *'ajwa* dates every morning will guarantee a person protection against bewitchment. But the scholars say that Mahomet was not affected by bewitchment. These are authentic *hadiths* reported in ***Sahih al-Bukhari and Sahih Muslim***, two most accepted books by Muslims after the Quran.

If Mahomet himself advised people to eat seven *'ajwa* dates to get protection against bewitchment, how could he himself forgot to take them, so much so that bewitchment affected him? Could Mahomet say what he did not do for himself? Could he not take these dates to protect himself? Above all, God said that He protected him against humankind.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لِمَ تَقُولُونَ مَا لَا تَفْعَلُونَ

61/2 – *O you who have believed, why do you say what you do not do?*

Mahomet taught his people to seek protection against the devil when starting the reading of the Quran and on many occasion. But he himself did not do it as he was affected by Satan and his artwork. He was no doubt protected against him in the Quran:

وَإِمَّا يَنزَغَنَّكَ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ نَزْغٌ فَاسْتَعِذْ بِاللَّهِ ۚ

7/200 – *And if an evil suggestion comes to you from Satan, then seek refuge in God. Indeed.*

وَيُذْهِبَ عَنكُمْ رِجْزَ الشَّيْطَانِ

8/11 – *And remove from you the evil of Satan*

فَإِذَا قَرَأْتَ الْقُرْآنَ فَاسْتَعِذْ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

16/98 – *So when you recite the Quran, seek refuge in God from Satan, the expelled.*

إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ يَنزَغُ بَيْنَهُمْ ۚ

17/53 – *Indeed, Satan induces dissension among them.*

وَإِمَّا يَنزَغَنَّكَ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ نَزْغٌ فَاسْتَعِذْ بِاللَّهِ ۖ

41/36 - *And if there comes to you from Satan an evil suggestion, then seek refuge in God.*

وَلَا يَصُدَّنَّكُمُ الشَّيْطَانُ ۖ

43/62 – *And never let Satan avert you.*

So God taught Mahomet to seek refuge against Satan in many circumstances. Because he was affected by the devil, then it means that he did not seek refuge in Satan! That's why Satan had been playing with him. Even when you have sexual relation with your wife, He showed you how to seek refuge against him:

عَنِ ابْنِ عَبَّاسٍ يَبْلُغُ بِهِ النَّبِيَّ قَالَ لَوْ أَنَّ أَحَدَكُمْ إِذَا أَتَى أَهْلَهُ قَالَ بِسْمِ اللَّهِ اللَّهُمَّ جَنِّبْنَا الشَّيْطَانَ وَجَنِّبِ الشَّيْطَانَ مَا رَزَقْتَنَا فَقُضِيَ بَيْنَهُمَا وَلَدٌ لَمْ يَضُرَّهُ.

4 – *Ibn Abbas* said that it has reached him that the prophet said, **if anyone of you on having sexual relations with his wife said, In the name of God, o God! Protect us from Satan, and protect also what you bestow upon us from Satan. And if it is destined that they should have a child, then Satan will never be able to harm that offspring** (***Sahih al-Bukhari: 1/143, 4/493, 8/397, 9/493; Sahih Muslim: 8/3361; Sunan Abu Dawood: 11/2156; Jami' at-Tirmidhi: 2/1092; Sunan ad-Darimi: 11/2144; Muswannaf Abdur Razzaq: 16/10216, 10217; Muswannaf Ibn Abu Shaybah: 6/13023, 22/29150; Sunan an-Nasai al-kubra: 63/8695, 64/9682, 9683; Sahih Ibn Hibban: 7/983***).

According to this *hadith*, it seems that before having the fetus is formed, he has been protected from Satan.

Mahomet pretended that he had the upper hand on the devil and God had helped him in that task:

عَنْ عُبَادَةَ بْنِ الْوَلِيدِ بْنِ عُبَادَةَ بْنِ الصَّامِتِ أَنَّ عَائِشَةَ قَالَتِ الْتَمَسْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ فَأَدْخَلْتُ يَدِي فِي شَعْرِهِ فَقَالَ قَدْ جَاءَكِ شَيْطَانُكِ فَقُلْتُ أَمَا لَكَ شَيْطَانٌ فَقَالَ بَلَى وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ أَعَانَنِي عَلَيْهِ فَأَسْلَمَ.

5 – *Ubadah ibn al-Walid ibn Ubadah ibn as-Samit* reported that Aishah said, I looked for the messenger of God and I put my hand on his hair. He said, **your devil has come to you**. I said, Do you have a devil? He said, **Yes, but God helped me with him, so he submitted** (***Sunan an-Nasai: 4/3412; Sunan an-Nasai al-kubra: 63/8586***).

They (the Muslims) say that the devil could not touch him because he was under the protection of God and He helped him overcome the former. Even, He said that the devil had submitted to his will. Here is another proof of this issue:

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ عَنِ النَّبِيِّ أَنَّهُ صَلَّى صَلَاةً قَالَ إِنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ عَرَضَ لِي فَشَدَّ عَلَيَّ لِيَقْطَعَ الصَّلَاةَ عَلَيَّ فَأَمْكَنَنِي اللَّهُ مِنْهُ فَذَعَتُّهُ ...

6 – Narrated *Abu Hurayra*: The prophet offered a prayer, and he said, **Satan came in front of me trying persistently to divert my attention from the prayer, but God gave me the strength to over-power him** (***Sahih al-Bukhari: 2/301, 4/504; Kanz-ul-ummal: 11/31952, al-Ihsan fi taqrib Ibn Hibban: 14/6420***).

Once again, we see that he had the help of God against Satan.

When we consider the *hadiths*, we find that they are contrary to the quranic verses. The second category of people says that, in accordance with *hadiths*, Mahomet was affected by the bewitchment so much so that he intended to commit suicide. They provide the following evidence:

عَنْ عَائِشَةَ أَنَّ النَّبِيَّ سُحِرَ حَتَّى كَانَ يُخَيَّلُ إِلَيْهِ أَنَّهُ صَنَعَ شَيْئًا وَلَمْ يَصْنَعْهُ.

7 – *Aishah* narrated: Once the prophet **was bewitched** so that he began to imagine that he had done a thing which in fact he had not done (***Sahih al-Bukhari: 4/400, 490, 7/660, 8/400; Musnad Ahmad: 40/24237; 24301, 24650; Mustakhraj Abu 'Awana: 17/9600; Sahih Ibn Hibban: 7/7259***).

عَنْ عَائِشَةَ قَالَتْ كَانَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ سُحِرَ حَتَّى كَانَ يَرَى أَنَّهُ يَأْتِي النِّسَاءَ وَلاَ يَأْتِيهِنَّ.

8 – Narrated *Aishah*: **Magic was worked on God's messenger** so that he used to think that he had sexual relations with his wives while he actually had not (***Sahih al-Bukhari: 7/660, 661; majma'-ul-fawaid: 3/7627; al-Ihsan fi taqrib Ibn Hibban: 14/6584***).

It is clear from the above *hadiths* that Mahomet as very affected by this bewitchment, whether you call it psychological and mental or any other ways.

We have the following narration on the suicide:

عَنْ عَائِشَةَ أَنَّهَا قَالَتْ...حَتَّى حَزِنَ النَّبِيُّ فِيمَا بَلَغَنَا حُزْنًا غَدَا مِنْهُ مِرَارًا كَيْ يَتَرَدَّى مِنْ رُءُوسِ شَوَاهِقِ الْجِبَالِ فَكُلَّمَا أَوْفَى بِذِرْوَةِ جَبَلٍ لِكَيْ يُلْقِيَ مِنْهُ نَفْسَهُ تَبَدَّى لَهُ جِبْرِيلُ فَقَالَ يَا مُحَمَّدُ إِنَّكَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ حَقًّا...

9 – *Aishah* narrated… And the prophet became so sad as we have heard that he intended several times to throw himself from the tops of high mountains and every time he went up the top of a mountain in order to throw himself down, Gabriel would appear before him and say, O Muhammad! You are indeed God's messenger in truth… (***Sahih al-Bukhari: 9/111; Musnad Ahmad: 43/113; Sahih Ibn Hibban: 4/2968; majma'-uz-zawaid: 2/6375***).

If he was really God's messenger, how could think of committing suicide when he knew that someone committing suicide will last in hell?

مَنَ قَتَلَ نَفْسَهُ بِحَدِيدَةٍ فَحَدِيدَتُهُ فِي يَدِهِ يَتَوَجَّأُ بِهَا فِي بَطْنِهِ فِي نَارِ جَهَنَّمَ خَالِدًا مُخَلَّدًا فِيهَا أَبَدًا

10 – **He who killed himself with steel (weapon) would be the eternal denizen of the Fire of Hell and he would have that weapon in his hand and would be thrusting that in his stomach for ever and ever** (***Sahih Muslim: 1/199; Jami' at-Tirmidhi: 4/2043, 2044; Sunan ad-Darimi: 15/2285; Sahih Ibn Hibban: 17/18066; as-Sunan al-kubra: 15/14597***).

Some scholars stated that this *hadith*, including 47 other narrations that are mentioned in the books of tafsir and other books, are all weak. We understand that they are meant to be rejected, despite that one of them is reported in ***Sahih al-Bukhari***. They narrated something fishy on *Az-Zuhri*, one of the narrators of these *hadiths*. If we can find weak *hadith* in ***Sahih al-Bukhari***, the scholars must explain them in order to prevent Muslims from following this book.

It is now clear that between the Quran and the *hadiths*, there are multiple problems. There are many clashes between the two. The Quran says that God will protect Mahomet from men and the *hadiths* say the opposite, that is Mahomet was really and greatly affected by the bewitchment of the Jew.

Let us make a summary:

1. Quran says that Mahomet was protected against the evil of men. But was he really protected?
2. Quran says that Satan is responsible for the acts of bewitchment. People call him for help in this matter and they are used to harm their families, neighbors, friends and colleagues. For example, they do it in order to paralyze them or to make them separate with their wives.
3. Quran says that Satan has no power on the true believers. But was Mahomet not a believer so that he is affected by bewitchment? Was he not a servant of God? We don't exaggerate when we say that Muslims consider him as the greatest of men to God, so much so that they consider him higher that God. This is a great fact that may be I will discuss in a separate article.
4. Aishah confessed that Mahomet was affected by sayings that he thought that he was doing something when in fact he was not. Those who say that he was not affected are talking nonsense.
5. Mahomet said that whoever eats seven *'ajwa* dates will not be affected by bewitchment. But the fact that he was affected proves that he himself did not take the *'ajwa* dates.
6. Mahomet forbade bewitchment but he was himself was bewitched.
7. Mahomet said that he also had a demon with him except that God gave him the upper hand on him and he could not harm him.
8. Mahomet wanted to commit suicide on a mountain, then Gabriel came to him and said that he was indeed a messenger of God, as if before that he did not know that he was one.

Our next topic of discussion will be: Did Mahomet died a natural death or did he die following the poison meat presented to him and which he ate.